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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-89-129

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Central African Republic

President Kolingba Cabinet Reshuffle Detailed NC1506203789 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Bangui, June 15 (AFP)—President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic reshuffled his government on Thursday [15 June], retaining the defence portfolio for himself and introducing two new ministers, officials said.

Former Rural Development Minister Theodore Bagayamo and ex-Energy Minister Michel Salle left the cabinet, which was formed on January 5.

Among the eight newcomers, including six secretaries of state, were former ambassador to Morocco and Algeria Jules Kouale-Yaboro, appointed secretary of state in the foreign ministry.

Ex-public health director-general Jean Limbassa received a ministerial portfolio in the same domaine, and Dieudonne Padoundji-Yadjouam a member of the executive secretariat of the single, ruling Central African Democratic Rally became minister of energy and mines.

The new government is as follows:

President, Min. of the Army and Veteran Affairs: Gen. Andre-Dieudonne Kolingba
Min. of Civil Service, Labour, Social Security and Professional Training: Daniel Schoulia

Min. of Commerce and Industry: Timothee Marboua
Min. of Communication, Arts and Culture: Jean Bengue
Min. of Economy, Finance, Planning and International Cooperation: Dieudonne Wazoua

Min. of Energy, Mines, Geology and Water Resources: Dieudonne Padoundji-Yadjoua

Min. of Foreign Affairs: Michel Gbezera Bria
Min. of Interior and Territorial Administration: Lt.-Col. Christophe Grelombe

Min. of Justice and Bearer of the Seals: Jean Willybiro Sacko

Min. of National and Higher Education: Jean Louis Psimhis

Min. of Posts and Telecommunications: Hugues Debozendi

Min. of Public Health: Jean Limbassa
Min. of Public Works and Territorial Development: Capt. Jacques Kithe

Min. of Rural Development: Thomas Mapouka
Min. of Transport and Civil Aviation: Pierre Gonife-Gaibonanou

Min. of Water, Forests, Wildlife, Fish and Tourism: Raymond Mbitikon

Min. in Charge of the Cabinet Secretariat: Edouard Franck

Sec. of State for Economy, Finance, Budget and Debt Management: Jude Alex Kette

Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs: Jules Kouale-Yaboro

Sec. of State for Higher Education: Jean-Marie Bassia

Sec. of State for Planning and Statistics: Thierry Bingaba
Sec. of State for Rural Development: Francois Waboulou
Sec. of State for Social Affairs: Mrs. Geneviene Lombilo
Sec. of State for Territorial Administration: Joseph Hetman El Roosalem
Sec. of State for Water Resources: Octave C. Houdegebe

* IMF Insists Government Reduce Spending 34000474c London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 12 May 89 p 7

[Text] Bangui. The IMF and World Bank are pressuring General Andre Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic [CAR], to push through the radical programme of civil service staff cuts drawn up before Christmas. This could mean 2,000 redundancies, but if Kolingba does not make the changes and reduce the government salary bill he is unlikely to be granted a third year structural adjustment package on time in September.

As an added incentive, the Paris Club has told Kolingba that it will reschedule all 1989 debt maturities on the soft 'Toronto' terms which Central Africa had already been granted for old debt—with no need for any further negotiations. But CAR will only get the automatic debt relief if it meets the September deadline for a new deal with the IMF.

And the IMF want to see Kolingba take really firm action to get public spending under control.

So far, CAR has followed the broad outlines of structural adjustment and economic liberalisation, but managed to fudge on the key budget issue. Now this core issue of spending and revenue is coming to a head and, in the process, forcing decision time on some other awkward questions.

Kolingba has been softening up public opinion for this crunch period. In a New Year speech he warned that now was the time to deal with the economy. And he has arrested several suspected dissidents, among them two radical student leaders. Students have often led protests against IMF-backed austerity in Africa—in the CAR they will be particularly affected as graduate job opportunities in the civil service are cut back.

Already about 100 officials have taken the generous voluntary severance terms and many more have applied for them. The government had been hoping that this would avoid the need for compulsory redundancies and no ministry has so far listed people who will have to go. However, the IMF may insist that they do. It might also push for reductions in cotton and coffee subsidies—and even tougher issue.

Last year the government managed to cut spending by CFAfr400m, but it still overshot the CFAfr24bn budget target by CFAfr1bn. Government salaries were one factor, but the cost of farm price support also played its part.

The government is trying to increase coffee and cotton production, but while it continues to pay a reasonable price to growers world prices have been falling. For the current 1989-90 harvest, coffee producer prices are being maintained at CFAfr190 a kilo.

With cotton and coffee output on the up—coffee production is planned to double by 1990 to 25,000 tonnes—the cost of the subsidy is also climbing. There is little chance of the government being able to keep within this year's CFAfr22bn spending target.

The World Bank wants cotton growers to be exposed more to real market prices, and it believes the French are also slowly coming to accept this view. So it seems two key donors may no longer be willing to underwrite the cost of the present cotton subsidies.

Cuts in coffee subsidies might follow—perhaps targeted on big plantations which can make cost savings more easily than peasant growers.

Chad

Libyan Bombers Overfly Northern Towns 28 Jun *AB2906195889 Ndjameña Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 29 Jun 89*

[Text] Overflight of Chadian airspace by Libyan bombers: Two Libyan bomber planes yesterday at 1500 overflew Gouro and Ounianga-Kebir. The overflight of our territory by the Libyan Air Force has become a daily affair since 25 June. Practically every day our airspace is violated by Libyan jet fighters. What is more serious is that they have gone from fighter planes to bombers.

Omou Overflow

*AB0207192889 Ndjameña Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 2 Jul 89*

[Text] The Libyan Air Force continues to daily violate our airspace. On Friday, 30 November [date as heard], at 1000, a Libyan warplane overflew the locality of Omou in the north of the country.

Habre Wishes New Sudanese Government Success *AB0307210189 EA0307210189 Ndjameña Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 3 Jul 89*

[Text] Following the political changes that have taken place in the sister Republic of Sudan, the head of state, El Hadj Hissein Habre, has just addressed the following message to the new strongman of Sudan, His Excellency Brigadier General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution and head of state of Sudan:

Mr Chairman and dear brother: On the occasion of your accession to the supreme magistracy of the sister Republic of Sudan, I would like to address to you both my

fraternal greetings and sincere wishes of total success in your new functions and in the task of national salvation that you have just undertaken. I also take this opportunity to say how much the Chadian people, their government, and I are attached to the fraternal and historic relations existing between our two brotherly peoples, and to express our deep desire to promote these relations of fruitful and confident cooperation between our two neighboring countries. I renew my wishes of health and success to you personally, and for the prosperity of the brotherly Sudanese people. Mr Chairman and dear brother, please accept the expression of my fraternal and high esteem for you.

Signed, Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad and head of state

President Habre Interviewed on Sudanese Relations *AB0407123189 Ndjameña Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 3 Jul 89*

[Text] The president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, last Saturday [1 July] granted an exclusive interview to the British news agency REUTER. Speaking to our colleague, Robert Maoni, the head of state tackled several topics relating to the political changes in neighboring Sudan, preparations being made to launch attacks on Chad from Sudan's Darfur Province, the continuation in the north of the French military presence in Chad, and the Libreville negotiations carried out at the level of the OAU ad hoc committee, which, as we all know, have come to a standstill.

In discussing Chadian-Sudanese relations, Mr Hissein Habre declared that the two countries were not only neighbors but also sister countries very closely linked by several excellent contacts which suffered reverses under the administration of Al-Mahdi, due to the special relations between the latter and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. These relations were reflected by the presence in Sudanese territory of the Islamic Legion and armed gangs whose mission is to destabilize Chad. President Hissein Habre explained that Chad had always worked for friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries.

With regard to the changes that have taken place in Sudan, the head of state said this coup was an internal affair and that Chad, as a state of laws, had no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Sudan, or of any other neighbor for that matter.

Equatorial Guinea

Single-Candidate Presidential Election Held *AB2506172689 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 25 Jun 89*

[By Laurent Menelet]

[Text] Malabo, June 25 (AFP)—Equatorial Guinea, a tiny former Spanish colony in West Africa, held its first presidential election Sunday [25 June].

The vote was largely symbolic: President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo was the only candidate, and most of his opposition was in Madrid.

Technically, it was a referendum: voters, provided with booths, cast a yes or a no ballot to say whether or not they voted for the candidate of the country's only party, the Democratic Party.

Parliamentary elections, with all candidates nominated by the president, returned 41 members to the House of Representatives of the People in 1983.

The government presented Sunday's elections as a step toward democracy, but it also banned car traffic, meetings of more than four people and the sale of alcoholic beverages, leading most restaurants and bars to close in order to avoid any trouble.

In this deeply Catholic country of about 330,000, even masses were rescheduled so as to not interfere with voting, which started at 8 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m.

With virtually no written press—more than half the population is illiterate—the government used radio and television to highlight the nation's progress since Mr. Obiang Nguema overthrew his uncle 10 years ago.

The television, aiming at convincing the population of the importance of the elections, even showed the arrival of foreign correspondents to prove international interest.

Equatorial Guinea, which is composed of Fernando Po, an island off the West African coast, and Rio Muni, a patch of territory wedged between Cameroon and Gabon, is one of the world's poorest countries: in 1981, the GNP per capita was 180 dollars a year.

The country went through one of the world's bloodiest dictatorships under President Francisco Macias Nguema, who led independence from Spain in 1969 and was ousted a decade later by his nephew, after mass executions sent a third of the population fleeing abroad.

During that period, the regime survived largely on aid from Moscow, Havana, Beijing and Madrid. Virtually all of the Spanish fled, leaving a population little equipped for administration or development.

President Obiang Nguema gradually aligned his country with France and, in 1985, joined the franc zone of currencies backed by Paris. He has gradually liberalized the economy and has received loans from the International Monetary Fund.

President Receives 99.96 Percent

*AB0507225389 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT
5 Jul 89*

[Text] malabo, July 5 (AFP)—The president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, was given a third term in office in June 25 elections, winning 99.96 percent of votes, according to an official notice here Wednesday [5 July].

President Obiang Nguema got the backing of 157,743 people as sole candidate in the small West African nation, and just 69 voted against him, on official figures.

There were no abstentions in a poll the statement called "clear proof of the esteem, support and confidence of the Equato-Guinean people for their chief, who since August 3, 1979 has engaged in intensive patriotic activity for a greater Equatorial Guinea."

Lieutenant-Colonel Obiang Nguema took power in a coup against his dictator Uncle Francisco Macias Nguema on that date, and was reappointed president for a further seven years in 1982.

He rules the nation of some 380,000 people with the help of a 500-strong Moroccan pretorian guard. The Army of 1,500 men has scarcely any equipment worthy of note.

Since 1983, there have been four attempted coups against the president, who brought in a new constitution by referendum the previous year. The latest bid to oust him, in September 1988, apparently involved other members of his family in the Mongomo clan of the Fang tribe.

In 1987, he set up the Equato-Guinea Democratic Party (PDGE), which is officially a "government" party and not a single, ruling force.

He has turned his back on the Eastern bloc, which supported his uncle, and relies on Spain for aid, while strengthening ties with West African francophone nations.

Equatorial Guinea was a Spanish colony until 1968, when Macias Nguema became president. In 1976, the authoritarian ruler, who exercised absolute power, made his nephew defence secretary at the Armed Forces Ministry.

Gabon

* Debt Servicing Up; Budget Revenues Down

*34190225 Paris LA LETTRE DU CONTINENT
in French 13 Apr 89 p 8*

[Article: "The 'Lazard Report'"]

[Text] Lazard House and Co., Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., and S. G. Warburg & Co., Ltd.—Gabon's troika of financial consultants—always insist that their annual economic report on the country "is solely the responsibility of the Gabonese Government." Nevertheless, it is read with great interest....

First of all, the figures: the balance of payments on current account showed a surplus up to 1985, but in 1986 it registered a deficit of 366 billion CFA francs. In 1987 the deficit was down to 135 billion, but in 1988 there was further deterioration, with a deficit of 160.8 billion projected. The gross domestic product [GDP], which fell by 28.5 percent in 1986, declined by 13.3 percent in 1987. The GDP in 1988 was 982 billion CFA francs, another 3.6 percent down.

Next, the commentaries on future prospects: despite support from external and internal creditors, budgetary outlays for servicing the government's debt will go from 64 billion CFA francs in 1988 (after rescheduling) to 173 billion in 1989. The debt service will consume 84 percent of nonpetroleum revenue. Beyond 1989 it is feared that this trend will become more pronounced while budgetary revenue continues to stagnate. This disturbing development is of concern to the Gabonese Government, which has decided to bring the country back into macroeconomic balance as quickly as possible.

Note: The Lazard report estimates, which assume an oil price of \$13.50 per barrel and an exchange rate of 300 CFA francs to the dollar, must obviously be revised to reflect the increase.

Zaire

Mobutu Leaves for State Visit to U.S.
EA2706184489 Bukavu Domestic Service in Swahili
0410 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Yesterday, Monday 26 June, the father of the nation, President Mobutu Sese Seko, founder president of the People's Movement of the Revolution [MPR], accompanied by his wife, Mama Bobila Dawa, began a state visit to the United States at the invitation of his counterpart, U.S. President George Bush. The visit will last several days. President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife left for Washington yesterday [word indistinct]. The purpose of the father of the nation's visit is to develop relations between Zaire and the United States. The leaders of the two countries will also meet to discuss the 22 June meeting at Gbadolite, at which ways of reconciling the citizens of the People's Republic of Angola were discussed. President Mobutu Sese Seko will also have an opportunity to meet some U.S. businessmen and heads of various organizations in that country.

The president of the Republic, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, is continuing to receive congratulations on the results of the Gbadolite meeting which took place last week. One such message has just been received from the leaders of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, one of the Angolan liberation movements. Angolan citizens residing in Zaire have also sent the father of the nation a congratulatory message. The French branch of the MPR youth movement has also sent a message to President Mobutu Sese Seko, congratulating him on his efforts to reconcile the citizens of the People's Republic of Angola.

Following the halting of the fighting in Angola last Saturday [24 June], the leaders of both sides are continuing to finalize the arrangements made at Gbadolite. These arrangements include an official meeting in Angola between the former opponents of the lawful government of Angola and the leaders of that nation.

Talks With Bush Talks Detailed
EA3006204089 Bukavu Domestic Service in French
1630 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] A report from Washington says that yesterday's talks at the White House between Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and U.S. President George Bush overran their allotted time by 5 minutes. This is an obvious sign of the interest which the two heads of state have in all the topics discussed and the pleasure they derived from this meeting, the fourth one of its kind. In their respective statements, they said that mutual understanding, friendly sincerity, and solidarity are essential for the strengthening of cooperation between the two states—Zaire and the United States. They also discussed about bilateral and multilateral issues, and southern Africa. Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko asked for President Bush's support for the national reconciliation process in Namibia [as heard] in order to restore peace to a part of the African Continent which has a common border with our country—Zaire—a border that extends for over 2,000 km.

177 Belgian Technical Assistants Dismissed
AB2806102489 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Some 177 Belgian technical assistants working in Zaire received their dismissal letters last week. This was announced yesterday by the Belgian minister of cooperation and development, Andre Geens. The dismissal of these technical assistants, who are mostly teachers, is a follow-up to the 6-month advance notice of termination of the mutual cooperation agreement between Zaire and Belgium, issued by Zaire on 13 January.

Official Takes Mobutu Message to Angola
EA0207205089 Bukavu Domestic Service in French
0430 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] The deputy first state commissioner who is also the commissioner for citizen's rights and liberties, Citizen Nimy Mayidika Ngimbi, began an official visit to Angola yesterday.

He is carrying a written message from Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko to his Angolan counterpart, Mr Eduardo dos Santos.

The content of the message is still not known, but it is believed to concern the recent steps taken by the founder president of the Popular Movement of the Revolution and president of the Republic, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, to achieve a reconciliation between the Angolan brothers.

7 July 1989

SOUTHERN AFRICA

5

Angola**Luanda To Host Tripartite Meeting on Namibia**
MB0607125689 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Angolan capital will from tomorrow host the proceedings of the fourth ordinary session of the joint tripartite commission that was created under the terms of the protocol signed [words indistinct] last year.

Delegations from the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba, and the Republic of South Africa will participate in the meeting, which will also be attended by observer delegations from the USSR and the United States. Martti Ahtisaari, the UN secretary general's special representative in Namibia, will also be a guest at the meeting.

The aim of this joint tripartite commission meeting is to facilitate the resolution of any (?differences) arising from the interpretation and (?implementation) of the New York tripartite accords, which regulate the entire southwestern African peace process on the basis of international legal instruments, notably UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 on Namibia's independence.

Martti Ahtisaari, the UN secretary general's special representative in Namibia, is expected to arrive in Luanda shortly to attend the meeting. This is the first ordinary meeting of the commission after the long period of crisis in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 caused by the sad events in northern Namibia in April. It is believed that the 2-day meeting will review the implementation of Resolution 435, which continues to show progress despite obstacles arising from instability in northern Namibia. This may jeopardize the observance of the deadline for the return of Namibian refugees.

The joint tripartite commission has already met in Luanda, Havana, and Cape Town. The last meeting, in Cape Town, centered on efforts to overcome the crisis [words indistinct] Namibian territory.

Ahtisaari, UN Officials Arrive
MB0607203789 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese
1950 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Luanda, 6 July (ANGOP)—Today in Luanda, Martti Athissari, UN special representative for Namibia, refused to confirm reports on the infiltration of SWAPO [South-West Africa People's Organization] fighters.

Athissaari was speaking to journalists shortly after his arrival from Windhoek to participate as an invited guest in the fourth ordinary session of the joint commission for the verification of the New York tripartite agreements on Namibian independence. The session is due to be held from Friday to Saturday [7-8 July] in Luanda.

He said: "I think it is premature for me to issue any statement on this kind of problem, because these issues will certainly be discussed during the commission's meeting." He also stressed that the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) has not yet carried out any verification on the Namibian side.

As a result of the tripartite meeting at Mount Etjo (Namibia), Namibian forces are confined north of the 16th parallel, in Angola. However, South African authorities have been providing contradictory information on the so-called SWAPO infiltration.

As for the issue of South-West African Police intimidation of people, he assured the journalists that the "problem has not been completely resolved, although last Monday [3 July] we began the process of registering voters, which is expected to continue until mid-September."

Martti Athisaari said: "Our increased presence in the north is aimed at preventing any kind of intimidation." He added that there are fewer complaints of intimidation.

He also said that his team had visited northern Namibia last week and held discussions with UNTAG personnel and the population. "Everything seems to be improving."

Martti Athisaari is accompanied by UNTAG Commander in Namibia Prem Chand, who is from India; Angolan representative in Namibia Bento Ribeiro Capulo, and other UN officials.

South African Delegates Arrive
MB0707051489 Johannesburg Television Service
in English 0500 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpt] A 2-day meeting of the joint commission of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba is due to begin in the Angolan capital, Luanda, today.

The South African delegation, led by the director general of foreign affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, arrived in Angola yesterday. [passage omitted]

Namibia**Spokesman on 'Confirmed' 'Sporadic' Infiltration**
MB0507162789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1611 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Windhoek July 5 SAPA—South Africa's administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, has declared a strike by a "considerable number" of Ovambo administration employees "totally illegal" and was taking urgent court action to prohibit the strike continuing, an official spokesman, Mr Eberhard Hofmann, said today.

"Furthermore, a departmental investigation is to be instituted concerning all officials participating in the strike in order to take disciplinary action where necessary."

Mr Hofmann told a media briefing no petitions or grievances pertaining to the strike, which started today, had been received by Mr Pienaar.

It was reported earlier that teachers, students and workers in the Ovambo region of northern Namibia would begin a three-day strike this week demanding steps be taken to ensure free and fair elections. The demands included the total removal of the members of the former SWA [South-West African] Police counter insurgency unit, Koevoet [Crowbar], from the ordinary police force.

Meanwhile, all the services provided by the administration were continuing with the personnel still available, Mr Hofmann said.

Mr Pienaar has undertaken to attend to the sporadic cases of infiltration of armed personnel into northern Namibia from Angola. Mr Hofmann said some cases had been reported and others confirmed, but he could not disclose figures. "The aim appears to be to engage in political activity with an element of intimidation as these people are uniformed and, in some cases, armed."

Concerning the return of dissidents, formerly detained in camps outside Namibia, Mr Pienaar was "determined to ascertain whether all such dissidents will be released and be free to return to the country before all political detainees or prisoners under the authority of the administrator-general will be released." Yesterday 154 former SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] detainees returned to Namibia from Angola and were reunited with families and friends.

Mr Hofmann said Mr Pienaar and the United Nations special representative, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, were reviewing the status of 28 prisoners being held in Namibia.

The SWA Police had made over 20 arrests on charges of poaching during the past three weeks, according to a report from police spokesman, Chief Inspector Kierie du Rand.

Patrols were being carried out on the northern border of the Etosha National Park in Ovambo, in eastern Kavango and in east and west Caprivi. Police had found 14 elephant carcasses and confiscated 12 tusks valued at about R37,000.

All the arrests were made by former members of the now defunct counter-insurgency unit, Koevoet, the report said.

Protesters Disrupt 6 Jul Windhoek UN Meeting
*MB0607125489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1203 GMT 6 Jul 89*

[Text] Windhoek July 6 SAPA—A group of SWA [South-West Africa] National Union (SWANU-Progressives) supporters caused a stir at United Nations headquarters in Windhoek today during a protest against the world body and the UN High Commission for Refugees senior representative, Mr Nicolas Bwakira.

Ushered out of the grounds and onto the pavement by UN security officials the protesters sang and danced waving placards "UN You are Corrupt", "UN be Fair or Go", "UN Where Are Our Refugees", "Bwakira, Go Back to Burundi People Are Starving There" and "All Detainees Back Now or No to Election".

At a media briefing earlier, a UN spokesman, Mr Fred Eckhard, announced that a further 106 UN police monitors were expected in Namibia on Saturday [8 July] as part of the second wave of 500 police monitors appointed to observe the SWA Police maintenance of law and order during the run-up to the election. Among the group were 40 policemen from Pakistan, 26 from Bangladesh and 40 from India.

Another 132 were due in on July 14 from (numbers in brackets): Ireland (15), the Netherland (27), Norway (20), Sweden (20) and Belgium (50). The new arrivals are to strengthen the existing 500 UN police monitors to 1,000.

Asked about a statement by the administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, in which he said the release of political prisoners inside the country was conditional on the release of political prisoners and detainees outside Namibia, Mr Eckhard said there was no provision for conditionality for the release of those prisoners under the settlement proposal.

"The special representative (Mr Martti Ahtisaari) expects all political prisoners to be released consistent with the settlement proposal".

Ghana

Cocoa Price Maintained Despite World Price Drop

*AB0607133489 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 5 Jul 89*

[Text] The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, today reassured cocoa farmers that the recently announced increase in the producer price of cocoa from 165,000 cedis to 174,400 cedis will not be changed in spite of the sharp drop in the world price of cocoa. In a statement, Dr Botchway said the decision is to keep the government's faith in the farmers and in recognition of their efforts to increase productivity through replanting and better husbandry. Last Monday [3 July] the Government of the Ivory Coast reduced the price paid to Ivorian cocoa farmers by as much as 50 percent. Ivory Coast is the world's leading producer price [as heard] of the commodity.

Guinea

'Surprise' Cabinet Reshuffle Reported

*AB0107095289 Paris AFP in French 2339 GMT
30 Jun 89*

[Text] Conakry, 1 Jul [date as received] (AFP)—A "surprise" cabinet reshuffle was announced here on Friday [30 June] night. The reshuffle is essentially characterized by a swap of functions by the senior Army officers who are members of the cabinet. It is also marked by the departure from the government of Abou Camara, minister-permanent secretary of the ruling Military Committee for National Redress (CMRN), who had until now been considered the regime's number-two man. Major Abou Camara will become the residing minister for the Upper Guinea Region to replace the former minister and CMRN permanent secretary, Kerfalla Camara, who has been appointed Conakry governor.

Maj Mamadou Balde, previously minister for Nzerekore Region, has been appointed minister of interior and decentralization. Maj Mohammed Lamine Traore, ambassador to the United Nations, was recalled to Conakry to assume ministerial functions. Lamine Bolivogui, former economy and finance minister, has been appointed minister of posts and telecommunications to replace Herve Vincent Bangoura, who has been appointed minister of information, culture, and tourism, replacing Zainoul Abedine Sanoussi, who is leaving the government.

Edouard Benjamin, former plan and international cooperation minister, and who represented the head of state at the Ouagadougou summit of the West African Economic Community on 28 and 29 June, has been appointed minister of economy and finance, while Ibrahima Sylla, the former representative to the European Economic Community, has been appointed minister of

natural resources. Madigbe Fofana, the former dean of the Department of Medicine of Conakry University, has been appointed minister of health.

The new appointments are marked by a relative balance between civilians and the military, which indicates an increase in the number of civilians in the government.

Observers see the reshuffle, which is characterized essentially by swaps of portfolios, as the consecration of Mamadou Balde (the former minister of administrative reforms, then resident minister for Kankan, then Nzerekore) and of Facine Toure, (former Nzerekore resident minister who had returned to Conakry to become minister of transport and public works), who has retained his portfolio. Observers note that the two men, who went through a period of "exile," are believed to be close to General Lansana Conte.

Ivory Coast

UNITA's Savimbi Meets With President

*AB0607115589 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT
6 July 89*

[Text] Abidjan, July 6 (AFP)—Rebel Jonas Savimbi of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] said here Thursday [6 July] he had no intention of leaving Angola.

At a press conference held after a meeting with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Mr Savimbi said he planned to remain as UNITA's leader. (?The rebel) organization agreed to a cease-fire (?with)the Luanda government at the end of last month.

He said the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola "asked me to leave" but UNITA's Central Committee has proposed that he run as a candidate in presidential elections he added.

Says Has No Plans To Leave Angola

*AB0607155089 Paris AFP in French 1429 GMT
6 Jul 89*

[Text] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) leader Jonas Savimbi said today during a news conference in Abidjan that he "does not envisage leaving Angola."

"It is the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola—the ruling party) that thinks that I must leave Angola. But it was not the intention of the MPLA to ask me gently to leave Angola when we were at war—its intention was to kill me. And if I am not dead, then the MPLA cannot gently ask me to leave for somewhere else," the opposition movement leader added.

"If I had been asked to go to Gbadolite to give my word of honor that I would disappear slowly, I would not leave. Prior to the negotiations, the UNITA Central

Committee had already decided that I should not be a member of any transitional government but rather to get ready to be the party's candidate in the elections," he added in French.

Mr Savimbi also asserted that the United States has no intention of "dropping" him, and he emphasized that the Congress has just renewed its assistance to his movement.

Touching on the upcoming negotiations for national reconciliation, the UNITA leader was of the opinion that it is necessary "to review the Constitution so that it can accept an unarmed opposition," but he rejected any idea of a federation, which, according to him, would weaken national unity.

Mr Savimbi also admitted that the future of the MPLA and UNITA poses some problems, for he said there cannot be two armies in Angola but rather only one national army. This issue should be discussed within the negotiating commission provided for by the Gbadolite (Zaire) accords, he recalled. He bluntly rejected the possibility of the 75,000 troops that he says are under his command being gradually accepted into the MPLA forces.

For the leader of the armed opposition who led the war for 14 years against the government, "there is still a long way to go" after the 22 June Gbadolite accords. "We must improve this framework and progress," he said.

In conclusion, Mr Savimbi stated: "I have become a quiet citizen, and I will join Angolan society pending the holding of elections. I will first rebuild my father's house. I can even be a teacher," he said, smiling.

Details Situation in News Conference
*AB0607143189 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 6 Jul 89*

[Text] We are for peace and not war; gratitude and praise to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. These were the main ideas developed by Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, during a news conference held in Abidjan this morning. Paul Alfred Kadjo attended the news conference:

[Kadjo] Jonas Savimbi met the national and international press this morning. He was asked many questions by journalists and gave fairly short answers on the current and future situation in Angola following the 22 June historic reconciliation meeting in Gbadolite between UNITA and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA, the ruling party. It is time to compromise in Angola after 14 years of civil war and long years of struggle against the Portuguese colonizers. There is no question of looking back. We have no right to prolong the suffering of our people, Jonas Savimbi said. War has lasted too long in Angola. There is no winner or loser, and we think we should go beyond the decisions of

the Gbadolite summit and move ahead. During this morning's news conference, which was held at the Hotel Ivoire, Jonas Savimbi emphasized the main provisions of the Gbadolite peace plan: the determination of all the children of Angola to put an end to war and to tell the world that they are ready for national reconciliation; the end of hostilities and the proclamation of the cease-fire that took effect on 24 June at 0000; and finally, the setting up of a commission that will determine the terms concerning the implementation of this plan aimed at achieving national reconciliation under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic of Zaire.

The UNITA leader also stressed the major initiatives by the Ivorian head of state, President Houphouet-Boigny, in the peace process and the full settlement of the conflict. We should be hopeful even though there is a long way to go, he said.

[Begin Savimbi recording] It is true that there is still a long way to go, because there was no time to clear the way and assess all the difficulties and to agree on all the issues. That is why, if you have been reading the international press, I have said that some contradictions still remain. UNITA wants the discussions to focus on these three issues because we believe that war has lasted too long in Angola. Following our struggle against the Portuguese and this 14-year fratricidal war, we believe there is no sense in making war. We should sit down and talk unconditionally, because as I said in Gbadolite, there was no winner or loser in this war. UNITA has not been defeated and did not accept conditions imposed by the MPLA. We did not defeat the MPLA. Therefore, it is time to make a compromise. I also want to stress the eminent fraternal role played by President Houphouet-Boigny. If you can recall, on (?!) February of this year, when we had wanted to launch our offensive at the beginning of the rainy season, we received a message from President Houphouet telling us that because an environment of peace was emerging in southern Africa, we should not launch it. We heeded his call and agreed to cancel our offensive. It was difficult to convince the commanding officers to put off the attack when they knew that conditions were more favorable to the guerrillas than the conventional army, but due to President Houphouet's moral authority and the esteem UNITA soldiers have for him, they accepted calling off the attack. [end recording]

Further on News Conference
*MB0707054089 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0510 GMT 7 Jul 89*

[Text] General Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, president of our glorious movement and supreme commander of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FALA, gave a news conference in Abidjan yesterday morning.

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Referring to MPLA accusations concerning cease-fire violations, UNITA President Comrade Dr Jonas Savimbi said:

[Begin Savimbi recording] We accept that we could not [words indistinct] violations [words indistinct] UNITA had already been following a cease-fire policy (?in) February, when Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny asked us not to carry out our offensives. But that was UNITA alone. Now, both UNITA and the MPLA must move along the path of that cease-fire, which is meant to end all violations. I have a list here of 47 MPLA attacks since 24 June, 12 reconnaissance flights, 15 supply convoys for MPLA forces, and 7 bombings. We need a mechanism that will define and control violations [words indistinct]. (?Meanwhile), the MPLA is again [words indistinct] so we can find [words indistinct] peace. [end recording]

Nonetheless, Dr Jonas Savimbi, our beloved president, said he hoped MPLA chairman Eduardo dos Santos will honor his Gbadolite compromise to help restore real peace and national reconstruction in our country.

[Begin Savimbi recording] I would like to think that Eduardo dos Santos is being sincere. He assumed a responsibility at the Gbadolite summit. My role is to advise the UNITA team to the talks [words indistinct] not to abandon the negotiating table because our people really do need peace. [end recording]

Houphouet-Boigny Meets With U.S.' Herman Cohen
*AB0507210589 Paris AFP in French 1856 GMT
 5 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 5 Jul (AFP)—Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, today held talks with Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the situation in southern Africa, particularly in Angola, it was learned from an official source. "We expressed satisfaction with the success of the Gbadolite (Zaire) summit conference on national reconciliation in Angola," stated Mr Cohen, who arrived yesterday evening in Abidjan from South Africa, following his 1 and ½ hour talk with Mr Houphouet-Boigny.

This meeting, which was the first public activity of the Ivorian head of state in a month, has now ended rumors circulating in Abidjan about the health of the president, who is now 84. The U.S. top official stated that "national reconciliation in Angola has taken a step forward, but there is still a long way to go." "We are confident that the negotiations will achieve a lasting peace in Angola," he added. [passage omitted]

Cohen Views Ties, Departs
*AB0607142089 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
 1930 GMT 5 Jul 89*

[Excerpts] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Ambassador Herman Cohen, who arrived here yesterday from Pretoria, left Abidjan this afternoon

after meeting the head of state. "We place a very high value on the advice of President Houphouet-Boigny," declared the new deputy secretary of state for African affairs, who is currently on a tour of several African capitals. [passage omitted].

Ambassador Herman Cohen, who gave a news conference at the airport before his departure, recalled his meeting in South Africa with the new chairman and presidential candidate of the ruling National Party. Mr de Klerk's ideas on the participation of the vast majority of the black population in the political life of the country offer reasonable hope, but we must wait and see, Ambassador Cohen stated. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Herman Cohen left Abidjan this afternoon for Libreville, Gabon, where he arrived a short while ago. He was seen off at the airport by the permanent undersecretary of the minister of foreign affairs, Ambassador Dieudonne Essiene; and Mr Dennis Kux, the U.S. ambassador.

President's Absence Revives Health 'Rumors'
*AB0107150489 Paris AFP in French 1318 GMT
 1 Jul 89*

[Text] Yamoussoukro, 1 Jul (AFP)—Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny did not attend the closing ceremony this morning of the UNESCO International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men, and his conspicuous absence has revived rumors about his state of health, in the absence of any official explanation. The Ivorian head of state, officially 84 years old, has not been seen in public for nearly 3 weeks. Reliable sources hinted that he was slightly indisposed, and that he was resting in his house.

The Ivorian president did not attend last week's Gbadolite summit in Zaire organized by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. A cease-fire agreement was concluded between Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan president, and Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The absence of the Ivorian president at this summit of 18 African heads of state was all the more conspicuous as he had played a major role in this reconciliation. He was absent Thursday [29 June] and yesterday at the summit of heads of state of member countries of the Economic Community of West African states held in Ouagadougou.

Moreover, no cabinet meeting has been held under his chairmanship since the beginning of June. The Ivorian president has already postponed, then canceled, a 5 June meeting with farmer representatives and the winners of a farm contest. Finally, he postponed his early June address to the nation during which he was supposed to announce major decisions on the government's economic policy concerning cocoa.

Observers have been wondering about this withdrawal by Africa's elder head of state for whom UNESCO especially organized this major conference on peace, in his hometown, Yamoussoukro, the political capital of the Ivory Coast. The week-long meeting, which was attended by about 200 foreign officials, ended today with the "Yamoussoukro call" for peace. The Ivorian president was expected to make a speech. His absence could be explained by the fact that the "stars" invited to this colloquium did not show up. No Nobel prize winners, such as UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, or former Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor attended either.

Reliable sources in Abidjan claim that following a short period of fatigue, President Houphouet-Boigny is feeling well and that he "is hale and hearty." According to these sources, he has withdrawn to prepare major decisions, which has revived persistent rumors concerning an upcoming cabinet reshuffle.

Cocoa Purchase Price Reduced to 250 CFA Francs
*AB0307213689 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 3 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] The minister of agriculture, Mr Denis Bra Kanon, this afternoon made an important statement in his office. This statement concerns agricultural production in our country, and particularly that of cocoa. As for this product, the minister announced the opening of the intermediate harvest season, otherwise known as the small harvest season, from 1 July to 30 September 1989. For this period, the off-farm purchase price of cocoa is fixed at 250 francs per kg of cocoa beans. Here is Minister Bra Kanon's explanation:

[Begin Kanon recording] During his recent visit to Senegal, the head of state reminded his Ivorian countrymen of two basic aspects of his policies. The first of these is that of production. We Ivorians know that the president of the Republic has always asked his brothers to produce more. A quick overview of production figures, especially since independence, enables us to note—and when I say us, it includes knowledgeable observers such as yourselves—that Ivorians have responded admirably to the call of the president of the Republic. Our production, in which speculation played no part, is today at a level which inspires admiration.

For example, Ivory Coast now consumes the sugar that it produces, whereas at independence we imported all the sugar that we consumed. Whereas at independence we produced only 6,000 tonnes of cotton, today among 10 French-speaking African countries, Ivory Coast leads with 23 percent of the total production, and in the whole of Africa, we are third after Egypt and Sudan. I am not even talking about cocoa, which you are very familiar with, or the oil palm and other crops, our production of which is very respectable.

The second aspect of his policy that the head of state insisted on reminding Ivorians of was the decision that he himself made to maintain contacts with governments and business circles to pay our farmers better prices for their products. The president of the Republic has waged this difficult and, indeed, dangerous struggle for 50 years now. Today, even though the results may seem to be difficult to appreciate, in view of the cyclical nature of agricultural produce and, especially, of their prices, we can assert that the president of the Republic has embarrassed virtually everyone, including the forces of money. Ivorians should know that the struggle is not over. We must pursue this struggle with the same ardor for and solidarity with our leader. But alongside the support of a popular nature, we must execute some concrete acts that can enable us to emerge from our current crisis which, I am sure, will pass away like the others.

Among these concrete acts, Ivorians must continue to produce more and better and to continue with the successful task of diversifying our agricultural production. Ivorians must continue to improve their productive capacity—which is the only efficient measure that will enable us to reduce the cost of production—and therefore, to become more and more competitive on the world market. Ivorians must find ways to plan their development while remaining credible, both internally and externally, and it is in this endeavor that they should strive to provide the necessary means to the Stabilization Fund which has played, and continues to play, an irreplaceable role in our development process.

In my capacity as minister of agriculture, and while awaiting the decision that the head of state could make next October, at the opening of the new coffee and cocoa—especially cocoa—season, concerning prices, I want to inform the people, notably our partners—I mean exporters, produce buyers, farmers, cooperative societies, cooperative society unions, and banks that participate in the financing of these purchases—that this very evening, a ministerial decree has just been issued concerning the closure of the main cocoa harvest season and the start as of 1 July 1989 of the intermediate season, otherwise known as the small cocoa harvest season. This season will be closed on 30 September 1989. The purchase price of produce during this season is fixed at 250 francs per kg of cocoa beans off the farms. I want to remind everyone that this price is the minimum guaranteed price below which no purchases should be made. I would also like to particularly emphasize the government's instructions, not only to our partners but especially to prefects, to ensure the scrupulous respect of this price. I would also like to remind them that legal provisions exist which enable them to effectively punish any violators of these provisions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

* Philip Brothers' Cocoa Purchase Detailed
*34190246a Paris LIBERATION
in French 9 Jun 89 p 12*

[Article: "Cocoa: Giant Gamble in Abidjan"]

[Text] Wednesday, 1900, Abidjan: the giant cocoa trader, the U.S. Phibro [Philip Brothers], secretly bought 280,000 tons of cocoa beans, thus getting even with the

French Sucden. Immediately after, yesterday, cocoa prices rose by 9 percent. Disinformation, counterattacks: this the tale of a battle in which control of the world market is at stake.

Last Wednesday, 1900, in Abidjan. A man leaves the building of the Ivorian Cocoa Stabilization Fund, a modern high-rise building in the heart of downtown Abidjan. The authorized representative of Derek Chambers, the U.S. Philip Brothers executive in charge of cocoa trade, has just signed for the purchase of 280,000 tons of Ivorian cocoa, all at one time.

He missed the contract of the century: his initial offer was for 1.2 million tons, the largest offer ever in the history of commodities. It would have given him permanent control over the cocoa bean market worldwide. But at least he beat his rival to the finish.

For months, a merciless war had opposed the two world giants of the cocoa trade: Philip Brothers, or Phibro, from New York; Sugar and Commodities, called Sucden, from Paris. Who would get the contract with the Ivory Coast, the leading world producer?

The French won the first round. For 1 and 1/2 years, more precisely since 9 July 1987, the Ivory Coast had refused to sell its production. Houphouet-Boigny, the "Old Man," hoped to force cocoa prices up. But he had to give up and call Sucden. With the support of the French Government, Sucden then enthusiastically accepted to take 400,000 tons. One-fifth of the world cocoa crop. On 11 November 1988, the contract was signed; it even contained the provision that Sucden would remain adviser to the "Old Man" in the future. For Phibro, that date marked a declaration of war. They could no longer sleep knowing that their challenger had acquired such a strong position.

They had no choice but to go one step further. On 15 May 1989, Derek Chambers (the Phibro executive in charge of cocoa trade) arrived in Abidjan and offered a fabulous contract to the Fund for the Stabilization and Standardization of Central African Agricultural Products (the CAISTAB): he would buy 1,280,000 tons, or 60 percent of the current world crop. The largest contract ever. The package offered was as follows: 280,000 tons (the remainder of the current campaign, to be completed at the end of September); plus 500,000 tons of the 1989-1990 campaign; plus another 500,000 tons of the 1990-1991 crop. Obviously, this would have broken the Sucden monopoly on Ivorian cocoa and replaced it de facto by a Phibro monopoly.

The American company explained: "We are getting the Ivorians out of a tight spot. Now their crop is sold for the next two years." But this was not altruistic. Phibro was purchasing 1,280,000 tons in order to control the market. They were not going to allow additional tonnages to

interfere with their business. But the Ivory Coast produces over 700,000 tons per year. It still would have had 200,000 tons on its hands this year and next year, and that is a lot.

Faced with this offer, Rene Amani, CAISTAB chief executive officer, asked to think it over. Because Sucden is officially his adviser, he informed it of the offer. Two days later, on 17 May, Serge Varsano (CEO of the French group) landed in Abidjan in his Falcon jet, with two assistants. He met Houphouet-Boigny who, as a demonstration of confidence, invited him to stay at the presidential palace. Already in their first conversation, Varsano explained: "I cannot follow." Houphouet then offered a compromise. "One half to Phibro, the other to Sucden." Varsano declined.

The reason was simple: even for just one-half of the contract, the amounts involved are huge. Ivorian cocoa, which sells on the market around Fr8 per kilo, actually costs Fr10 when it leaves the port of Abidjan. No shipper will load it on a boat unless he gets at least Fr10. As a result, additional "refinancing," a credit of Fr2 per kilo, must be obtained, part of which must be paid in cash. For 1,280,000 tons, Phibro offered to pay Fr550 million cash. But Sucden had trouble "upping the ante" as they say at poker. Even for 50 percent of the amount.

Besides, Phibro went one step further. They put forward a clause very attractive to the Ivorians. They offered a guaranteed minimum price: Fr8 per kilo, no matter how much prices may vary in the future. And of these Fr8, Fr1 would be devoted to buying back the Ivorian foreign debt, which sells at one-third its nominal value on the secondary debt market. A minimum price? Sucden does not have what it takes to shoulder such volumes. They could do it in the first round, for 400,000 tons. That was because they could hope to protect themselves against a fall in prices by selling the same quantity for future delivery on the Paris, London, or New York markets. But they could not do it for 1,280,000 tons.

Obviously, the operation was not without danger even for Phibro. Such a tonnage represents a huge risk if prices fall. But Derek Chambers had made his calculations. He did not conceal the results: a possible loss of \$300 million. With a shrug, he explained to his friends: "\$300 million is not much more than the annual interest I get on my cash flow...I can risk that much." Sucden, obviously, does not belong in the same league.

To get the contract, Phibro even offered a most original clause to the Ivorians: if prices should rise above the minimum offered, Phibro would give them a share in the profit. Phibro even boasted that they could cause prices to rise. The Ivorians, who have tried to do just that by stopping all sales for 1 and 1/2 years, were quite amazed.

Undeniably, pricing power belongs to the traders, not to the producers. Already, Sucden had concluded the first round by hinting at a price increase, as half the tonnage

bought would be put into storage. "They even made us believe that they could raise it to Fr14 per kilo," a professional told us in Abidjan.

Chambers, therefore, knew that the argument would pay off. Back in London, he tried to cause prices to rise; to be still more convincing he went around explaining that he had been trying to "squeeze" the market for a few months already. Everybody knew that he had purchased 250,000 tons for delivery in December 1989.

All through last week, the Anglo-Saxon trade press wrote that cocoa prices were getting stronger on the London market, due to fluctuations of the dollar. Actually, Chambers was working hard at it.

Presidential Aide's Killing Detailed

*AB3006090189 Paris AFP in English 0203 GMT
30 Jun 89*

[Text] Abidjan, June 30 (AFP)—Colonel Pierre Chirol of France, an advisor on Arab affairs to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Cote d'Ivoire, was shot dead here by presumed car thieves, various sources said Thursday [29 June].

Eye-witnesses said that four Africans tried to rob Col. Chirol, 67, and steal his car soon after he parked it on Wednesday outside a bakery in the city's Cocody-Deax-Plateaux district. The colonel was hit by three bullets and died immediately.

About a year ago, Colonel Meunier, a French doctor seconded to the Pasteur Institute of Medical research here, was killed in similar circumstances by gunmen who tried to steal his briefcase and car.

Liberia

Doe Appoints Finance, National Security Ministers

AB0307205689 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English

2000 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has made several appointments in government with the consent of the Liberian Senate. According to an Executive Mansion released issued today, those appointed are Emmanuel Shaw II, minister of finance; Sylvester Moses, minister of national security; Perry J. Zulu, managing director of the Liberian Petroleum Refining Company; and (Evary J. Clarke), deputy managing director, National Insurance Corporation of Liberia.

In separate letters of appointment, President Doe challenged the officials to perform their respective duties with commitment, dedication, and loyalty to government and the people of Liberia, thereby justifying the confidence reposed in them. In a related development, the president has also been pleased to appoint Mr Jerome Hodge as acting president of the Agricultural

Cooperative Development Bank, replacing Mr (Wilson Darpeh), who recently took up assignment at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Foreign Minister Praises Relations With U.S.

*AB0507230689 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 5 Jul 89*

[Text] Foreign Minister Rudolph Johnson says relations between Liberia and the United States will continue to grow from strength to strength. According to news report, Minister Johnson was speaking yesterday in Monrovia at programs marking the 213th anniversary of the United States.

Speaking earlier, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Keith Wanchope, acknowledged the long-existing friendship between the United States and Liberia. The U.S. envoy then extended best wishes for peace and prosperity to the Liberian Government and people.

Mauritania

Five New Cabinet Appointments Announced

*LD0107234989 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 1 Jul 89*

[Text] The chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation has announced that according to a decree issued today, the following have been appointed:

Major Cheikh Ahmed Ould Dada as minister of foreign affairs and cooperation;

Mr Mohamed Ould Nany as minister of finance;

Mr Mustafa Ould 'Unaydel-Rahman as minister of planning and labor;

Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya as minister of fisheries and marine economy;

and Mr Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed as minister of information.

Nigeria

Six Universities To Remain Closed

*AB2706174789 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Jun 89*

[Text] Six of the universities closed following the recent students disturbances are to remain closed until March next year. They are the federal universities in Ibadan, Lagos, and Benin. Others are the state universities in Lagos, Bendel, and Imo. The minister of education, Prof Djibril Aminu, said in Lagos that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the Ondo State University will be reopened in September this year. The federal government colleges at Enugu and Okigbe will remain closed

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pending further directives from the Federal Ministry of Education. Institutions not affected by the order are to be reopened on Monday, the 3d of next month. Professor Aminu said the government regretted the action but had no alternative given the level of intolerable behavior of the students.

Students Protest Against School-Closing Policy
*AB0507164989 Paris AFP in French 1205 GMT
 5 Jul 89*

[Text] Lagos, 5 Jul (AFP)—Ibadan Polytechnic, which was reopened 2 weeks ago after the general closure of universities in Nigeria, following the disturbances at the end of May, was closed down again yesterday, it was learned from authoritative sources in Lagos today.

According to these sources, Ibadan Polytechnic was closed down as a precautionary measure for peace cannot be guaranteed on the campus following a protest by students from other universities in the city against the federal government's decision to prolong the closure of six of the country's major universities—including that of Ibadan—until March 1990. The government decision affected the universities of Lagos, Ibadan, Benin City, Lagos State, Bendel State, and Imo State.

Other student demonstrations against this decision took place on Monday [3 July] and yesterday in Bendel State (located in the south of the country) leading there, too, to the closure of primary and secondary schools—again, according to these sources. In Warri, one of the state's major cities, the teacher training college remained open despite a demonstration Monday, these sources added.

Sources close to the president's office point out that these are local reactions which will not alter the federal government's decision. The head of state, General Ibrahim Babangida, himself stated yesterday in Lagos that the decision to prolong the closure of the six universities was painful, but that the people must learn to respect life and property.

Processions, Demonstrations Banned in Anambra State
*AB0307085289 Lagos Domestic Service in English
 0600 GMT 3 Jul 89*

[Text] All forms of processions and demonstrations have been banned in Anambra State. In a statement in Enugu, the state commissioner of police, Mr Amos Danganam, stressed that the police would deal ruthlessly with any person or group found flouting the order. The state police command therefore appealed to all citizens in the state to cooperate with the law-enforcement agencies to ensure a peaceful society.

Bar Association Ends Court Boycott
*AB0607113389 Lagos Domestic Service in English
 1500 GMT 5 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] The Nigerian Bar Association [NBA] today called off its nationwide boycott of courts, in compliance with the order of the Federal High Court in Kano. The court had on Monday [3 July] ordered the NBA to suspend the boycott pending the determination of a substantive motion by the Governor of Gongola State. Judiciary correspondent, Kelly Ilasha, reports:

[Begin Ilasha recording] Mr Justice Maman Nkolo of the Tuga High Court, Kano, [words indistinct]. Governor Issa Mohamed had, in an ex-parte application, asked the court to restrain the NBA from interfering with administration of justice in Gongola State, as well as stop the association from giving (?a thought) to a letter sent to the governor by the NBA.

The NBA president, Mr Alao Aka-Bashorun, said the association considered it highly necessary to comply with the order of the Federal High Court, with the strong belief that a court order must be obeyed. He, however, raised strong objection to the proceedings in the court. Mr Aka-Bashorun questioned the competence of the court [words indistinct]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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11 July 1989

